

Planning and Development Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6823

AN ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN CONTRACTS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF

Title: MUNICIPAL LEGISLATIVE BODIES AND MUNICIPALITIES.

Vote Date: 2/10/2025

Vote Action: Reserved for Subject Matter Public Hearing

PH Date: 2/19/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Planning and Development Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason is members of municipal legislative bodies are elected or appointed to represent the interests of the public and make decisions on behalf of their constituents. If a member is allowed to contract with the municipality for construction, renovation, or repair services, it could create a conflict of interest. They may be able to influence the decisions that would benefit their own business interests, even if they act in good faith.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Samuel S. Gold, Executive Director, The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments \(RiverCOG\)](#): They oppose House Bill 6823, though they acknowledge the bill's intention to prevent conflicts of interest in municipal contracts. RiverCOG suggests that the bill could be modified to allow municipalities the option to enact such provisions through local ordinances if they choose to do so. They also raise concerns regarding municipalities that have a town meeting form of government, where the town meeting acts as the legislative body. Under the bill, it might mean that only out-of-town contractors would be eligible for town contracts, as any local contractor who resides in the town could potentially be a member of the municipal legislative body. RiverCOG questions whether this would also prevent town contractors who live in the town from attending and participating in town meetings, which could complicate local governance. They are seeking clarification on how the bill would affect local contractors and their involvement in both town meetings and contracts.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Austin Adil

Date: 4/24/2025